

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00450
 CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECURITY INFORMATION
 COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 5716
 TOPIC Military Information from the Soviet Training Area on the Elbe River
 25X1X in the Dessau-Barby Area
 EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A
 25X1A
 DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]
 25X1A
 DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 31 October 1951
 25X1A
 REFERENCES [REDACTED]
 PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]
 REMARKS [REDACTED]
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25X1X
 SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. Construction of piles and of small ferries was the only training activity observed at the Rosslau (M 52/N 17), Rietzmeck and Brambach water training sites from 24 September to 6 October 1951. Ferrying of tanks and trucks was obviously to train the tank and truck crews. The training courses in the camps continued. Troops arrived and left via the Dessau freight station. * A tent camp quartering about 500 engineers was established across from Breitenhagen in late September. ** Training activity at the Rosslau water training site decreased considerably in early October. Units totaling about 450 men and organized into three companies were seen marching toward Dessau. Officers and EM wore winter garb. Workmen employed at the barracks installations stated that the installations in Meinsdorf were not occupied to capacity. The road from Dessau to Aken was blocked on a number of days between 24 September and 7 October, allegedly because of small-scale exercises involving tanks and mortars. No large-scale maneuvers have so far been conducted. An engineer said that he is stationed in Stendal and had served for two years. [REDACTED]

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2. A signboard with the inscription "MAP/PYT No 1" was seen near km-mark 5.3 on the road Dessau-Aken on 4 October. Arrows pointed to woods on either side of the road. Firing of rifle, machine guns, and mortars were heard from a southerly direction on 4 and 5 October. [REDACTED] 25X1C

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3. Only a few soldiers were seen in Barby (M 52/D 88) on 6 October. Fourteen emplaced guns were seen about 1 km southeast of Poemmelte. Their barrels projected about 15 meters above the ground. They were guarded by several sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. No motor vehicles or quarters were seen. The ferry near the village of Ronney was off limits to all civilian personnel and the approaches cordoned off by German Volkspolizei in the afternoon of 6 October. [REDACTED] the ferry on

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 No Change in Class. ☐
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 Class. Changed To: TS S ☒
 Auth: HR 70-2
 Date: 2767905 400470008 65

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25X1C 7 October, and saw that there was a pontoon bridge about 1.5 km upstream which was crossed by trucks. Residents stated that troops bivouacked in tents in the Hasselbusch woods west of Klein-Rosenburg and northwest of Breitenhagen between Alte Zerbsterlandstrasse and the junction of the Saale and Elbe Rivers. A headquarters was allegedly billeted in the Walternieberg Estate. It numbered about 25 officers and 250 EM who wore black epaulets. About 30 trucks and 4 amphibious cars were parked along the road to Walternieberg, and with them were about 50 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets.

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